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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

Confirmation No.: 6432

Young-Sil YU

Group Art Unit: 3643

Application No.: 10/676,012

Examiner: Jeffrey L. GELLNER

Filed: October 2, 2003

Attorney Dkt. No.: 101190-00034

For: FLOWER SUPPORTING DEVICE

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: October 27, 2004

Sir:

The following election is being made in response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2004, in which the Office Action identified five (5) patentably distinct species of the claimed invention. The Office Action required the Applicant, under 35 U.S.C. § 121, to elect a single species for prosecution on the merits. The five species (5) identified in the Office Action are:

- Species I, Figures 4 and 5;
- Species II, Figures 6-9;
- Species III, Figures 10-12;
- Species IV, Figures 14-20; and
- Species V, Figures 22-28.

Additionally, the Office Action required selection of one of the following four (4) patentably distinct species:

Species A, Figure 1 for rotatable bead;

Species B, Figure 2;

Species C, Figure 3; or

Species D, Fig. 30.

Further, the Applicant was required to elect from the among the following three (3) patentably distinct species:

Species a: water containing segment a sheet;

Species b: water containing segment a plurality of small-sized spherical balls; or

Species c: Fig. 13.

Pursuant to the election of species requirement, the Applicant elects prosecution on the merits of **Species V**, as shown in Figures 22-28. The Applicant submits that this species is recited in claims 1 and 4-8. The Applicant also elects **Species A**, as shown in Figure 1 and recited in claim 1. The Applicant further elects **Species b**, the water and shock absorbing material that is composed of a plurality of small-sized spherical balls as recited in claims 1 and 8-10.

The Applicant also elects prosecution of all of the elected Species with traverse, and submits that all of the species have a rotatable bead. Thus, the Applicant submits that there is no undue burden to examine all the claims and species covered by the claims.

The Applicant further submits that claim 1 is generic to all Species in that each species has a plurality of rotatable beads connected by connection means having elasticity so that a support body is formed, and a plurality of support bodies are arranged to be staggered up and down with each other so that a stem of a flower can

be inserted between adjoining supporting bodies to be supported by them, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, upon allowance of claim 1, the Applicant requests a rejoinder of the claims.

The Applicant also reserves the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected species.

With the above election, the Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for examination on the merits. An early examination and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing Attorney Docket No. 101190-00034.**

Respectfully submitted,



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